Pending the resolution of the boundary question, both sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas in accordance with the agreements of 1993, 1996 and 2005.

During the visit of Chinese President to India in November 2006, both sides stated that they were committed to resolving outstanding differences through peaceful means and in a fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable and proactive manner, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations. Further, both sides agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and shall, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective.

The two sides issued a Joint Declaration in November 2006 that spelt out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level. The elements of this strategy include: ensuring comprehensive development of bilateral relations; consolidating commercial and economic exchanges; expanding all-round mutually beneficial cooperation; instilling mutual trust and confidence through defence cooperation; seeking early settlement of outstanding issues; promoting trans-border connectivity and cooperation; boosting cooperation in Science and Technology; revitalising cultural ties and nurturing people-to-people exchanges; and expanding cooperation on regional and international stage.

New CZM Notification

*249. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a new Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Notification replacing the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991;

(b) if so, the features of the new notification;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new CZM Notification poses serious threats to livelihood of coastal fishing workers and to coastal ecosystems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Most polluted rivers

†*250. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the name of the Ganges has been included in the list of ten most polluted rivers of the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the measures Government intend to take to prevent such unfortunate situations; and

(c) whether it is a fact that just before the Magha fair, the waste polluted and black water is released knowingly in the holy Ganges by the leather factories of Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In a report entitled "World's top 10 rivers at risk", the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), an international Non-Government Organization (NGO), has listed the river Ganga as one of the world's ten rivers facing risk. The report profiles the biodiversity of the river Ganga, and perceives over-extraction of water for agriculture and excessive water diversions affecting natural flows as major threats to the river. However, the report has not categorized the river Ganga under the category of polluted rivers.

(b) Under the National River Conservation Plan, various works are being undertaken for pollution abatement of major rivers in the country, including the Ganga, through interception and diversion of sewage, construction of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front development, afforestation, public participation, public awareness, etc. With the pollution abatement works completed so far under the Plan, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown discernible improvement at major locations over its pre-Ganga Action Plan quality as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions in the country.

(c) No, Sir. As per the U.P. State Pollution Control Board, the polluted water from the tanneries is not released into the river Ganga directly. The effluent generated from the tanneries receives primary treatment in the individual tannery and is then sent to a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) for secondary treatment. The final treated effluent is used for irrigation.

Road-bridge on brahmaputra

*251. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of road-bridge downstream of existing rail and road-bridge over Brahmaputra at Saraighat near Guwahati;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities have requested to review the planning for construction of roadbridge or rail-cum-road bridge near Guwahati by involving the Ministry of Railways; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry so far?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.